

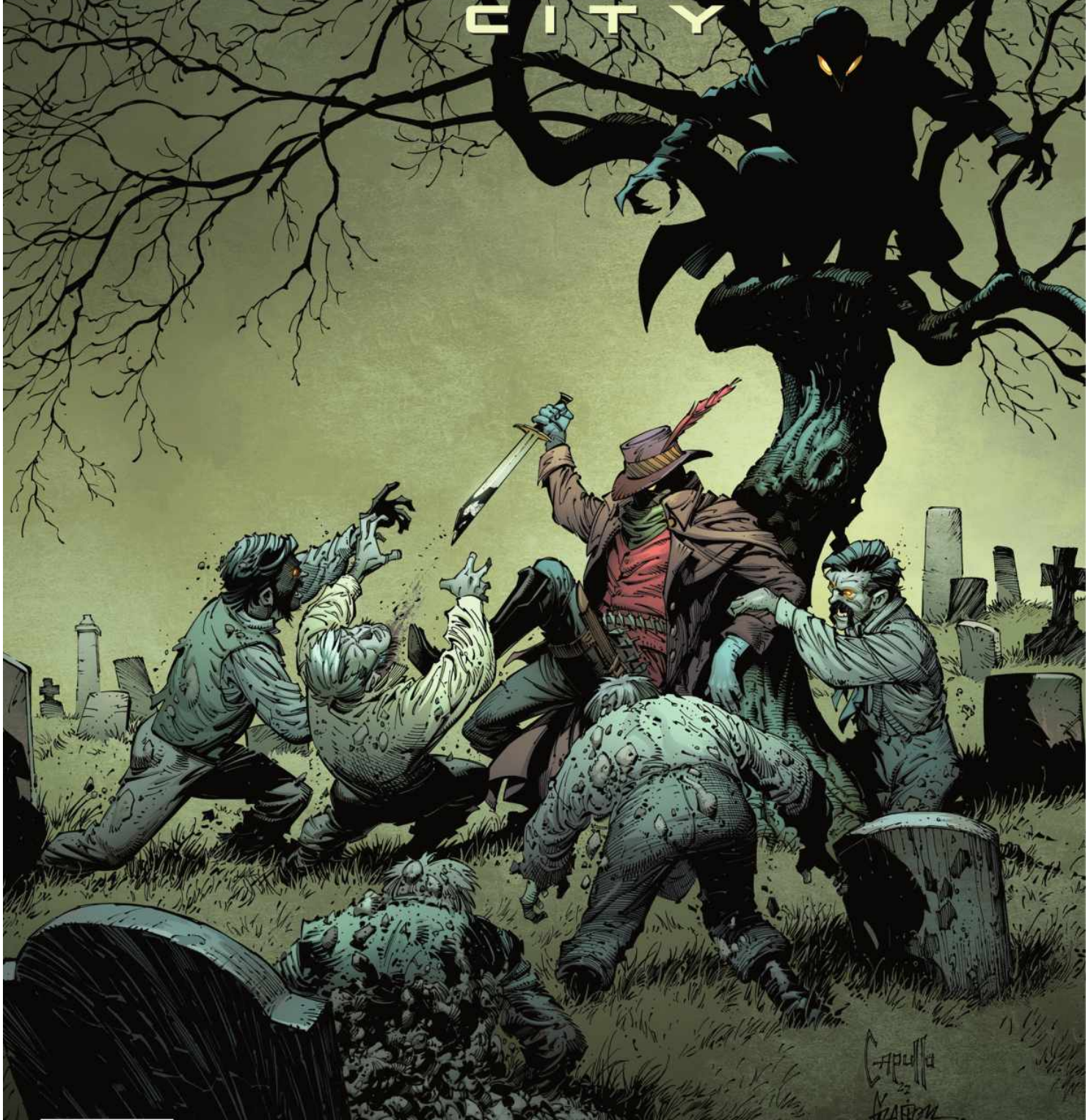


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NARCISSE
ABEL
JOHN

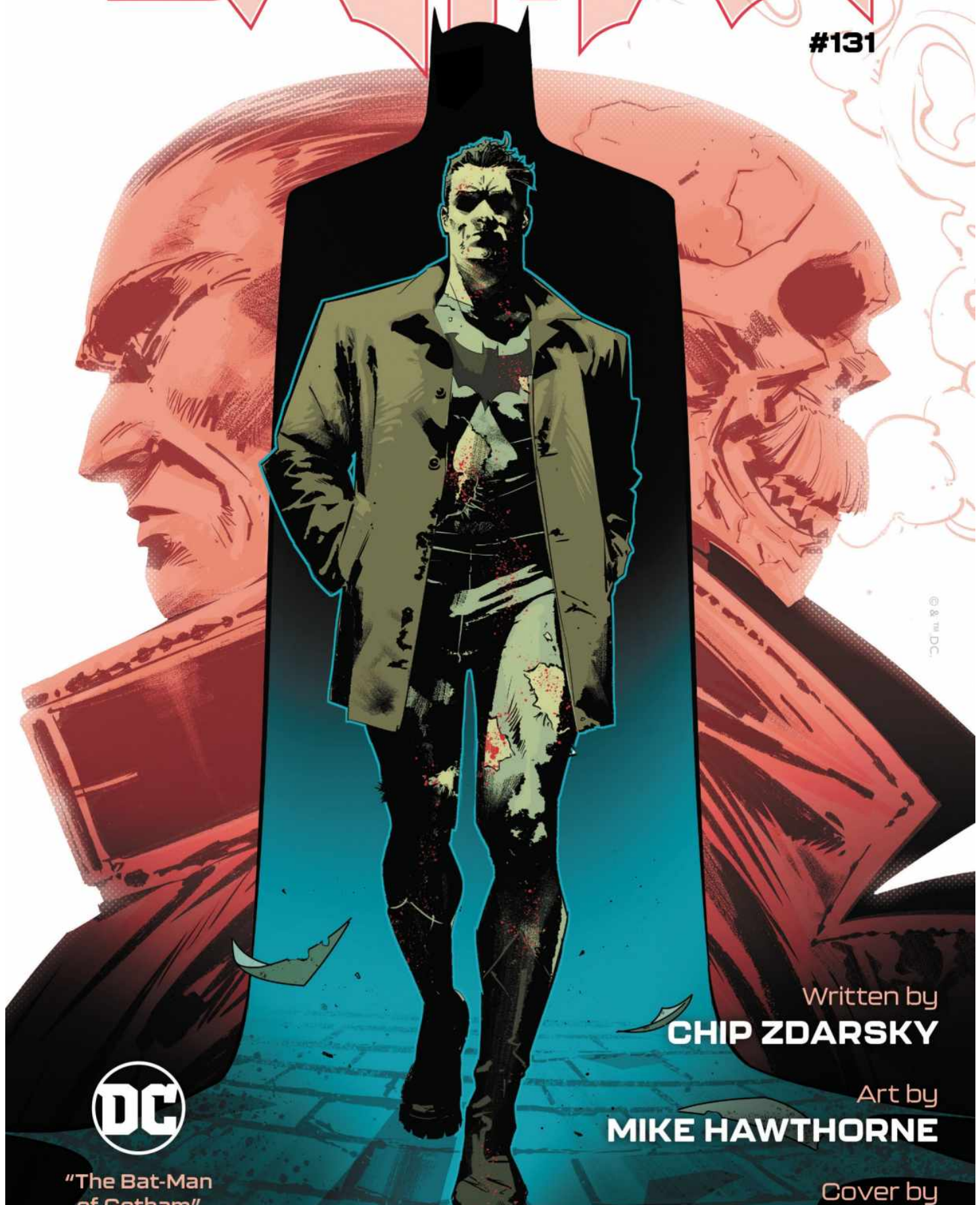
BATMAN: GOTHAM KNIGHTS GILOED CITY



WHO IS BRUCE WAYNE?

BATMAN

#131



© & TM DC

Written by

CHIP ZDARSKY

Art by

MIKE HAWTHORNE

Cover by



"The Bat-Man
of Gotham"

UNNGHH...

YOU
NEEDN'T
WORRY,
STRANGER...

THE COURT OF OWLS,
GOTHAM CITY OUTSKIRTS, 1847.

...WE LEFT
YOUR MASK ON.
WE HAVE RESPECT
FOR THE *FREEDOM*
THAT MASKS
OFFER.

THEY LET YOU
EMBARK ON THE
IMPOSSIBLE...LIKE
THE WORK YOU SEE
BEFORE YOU.

WHAT?
WHERE?

TRUE NATURES

EVAN NARCISSE writer ABEL artist
JOHN colorist STEVE WANDS letterer
GREG CAPULLO, JONATHAN GLAPION & DAVE McCAIG cover
E.M. GIST variant cover



FOR NOW, LET US SAY THAT YOU ARE IN A PLACE OF BETTERMENT.

BETTERMENT? YOU'VE BUTCHERED THESE PEOPLE!



THIS IS THE CYCLE. SOME ARE BORN TO SUFFER, SO THAT OTHERS MAY ADVANCE.

AND WHO GAVE YOU THE POWER TO DECIDE?

WE TOOK THE POWER OURSELVES. JUST AS YOU TAKE IT UPON YOURSELF TO ASSAULT THOSE PATROLLERS LOOKING TO RETURN PROPERTY TO WHOM IT BELONGS.



"FLY FREE." OH YES, WE HAVE HEARD OF YOUR EXPLOITS, LITTLE RUNAWAY.

WHO IS THIS "WE"?

THE SOCIETY I SPEAK FOR. *THE COURT OF OWLS*. OUR WORK AIMS TO CONQUER DEATH ITSELF.

"THOSE ZONBI IN THE GRAVEYARD... THAT WAS YOUR DOING."*











THE BROKEN TRACK IS AFTER THE LAST BIG LOOP. HOW LONG DOES THAT GIVE US?

FULL RIDE CLOCKS IN AT THREE MINUTES. COASTER'S ALREADY GOING SO WE'VE GOT LESS THAN THAT.



WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS? YOU AND **BABS** ARE THE CODE NINJAS. ANY KIND OF REMOTE ACCESS?

PARK'S MORE THAN A CENTURY OLD--EVERYTHING'S ANALOG. CHEAPSKATE OPERATORS NEVER UPGRADED ANYTHING.



EXHIBIT A: THEY NEVER PATCHED MASSIVE HOLES ON THE PARACHUTE DROP!

FOMO MOB JUST HAD TO HIJACK A VINTAGE COASTER...WAIT A SECOND. HIJACK! THAT'S IT!



UH-OH, I KNOW THAT VOICE. THAT'S THE DICK GRAYSON "LAUGHING YOUNG DAREDEVIL" VOICE.



WE'RE GONNA PUT THE BAT-BRAKES ON THIS ROLLER COASTER, LI'L BRO!

PLEASE TELL ME
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO
TRY AND STOP THAT THING
WITH YOUR BARE HANDS,
CIRCUS BOY.

NOPE,
YOU ARE.

WHAT?!

HAVE THE
BATWING LOCK
ON ME AND FIRE
THE SKYHOOK AT MY
POSITION. WE'LL USE
THE PLANE'S ENGINES
TO GENERATE EQUAL
FORCE IN THE
OPPOSITE
DIRECTION.

SHAKE
STORM

ZWEEEEE

HAUNTED
HOUSE

THAT'LL RIP
THE COASTER
APART!

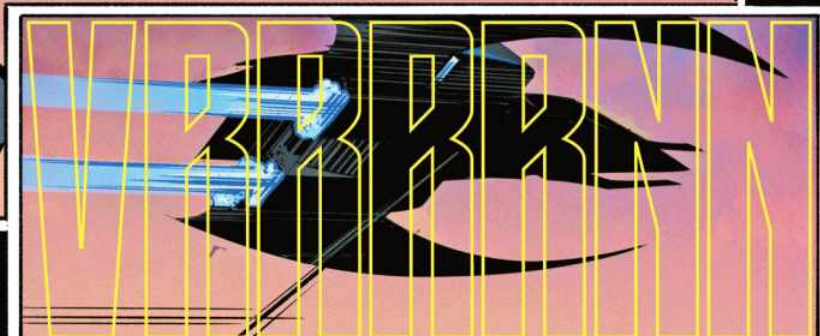
WE'VE
BARELY
GOT ANY
TIME LEFT,
DICK!

ONLY AT
FULL THRUST.
YOU'VE GOTTA
BRING UP THE
ACCELERATION
SLOWLY.

TARGET
LOCKED

BOOM

WE'RE
THE ONLY
CHANCE THESE





A FEW DEATH-DEFYING MINUTES LATER...







SO YOU'RE SAYING A RANDOM CLUE DROPPED INTO YOUR LAP BECAUSE OF JUICY LIBRARIAN GOSSIP?

IT'S GOTHAM CITY, TIM. NOTHING'S EVER RANDOM.

THANKS, ALFRED.



THORNE'S SECRET LIBRARY IS ON A COMPOUND A FEW MILES OUTSIDE THE CITY. I'M GOING TO GO PAY A VISIT.



WE SHOULD UPDATE BRUCE ON THIS.

THAT'LL HAVE TO WAIT.

"HE'S TURNED OFF COMMS FOR HIS TOP SECRET BEHAVIORAL CONSULT."



NO WALK-INS! APPOINTMENTS ONLY!

BLACKGATE PRISON.



HEYA, BATSY! I SEE YOU'VE MET MY CLIENTS.



CLIENTS, HARLEEN?

YEAH! I LISTEN TO THEIR PROBLEMS, GIVE 'EM SOME ADVICE AND UNDERSTANDING, AND THEY MAKE SURE NOBODY BOTHERS ME.



AREN'T YOUR... **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPOSED TO KEEP YOU OUT OF JAIL?

WHAT CAN I SAY? I MISSED THE PRISON-INDUSTRIAL-COMPLEX AMBIENCE!

SO WHAT BRINGS YA, BATSY?



YOU'RE AWARE OF THE MASSIVE OUTBREAK OF ABERRANT BEHAVIOR, I TAKE IT?



SURE AM! MAKES ME GLAD I'M IN HERE!



THE VICTIMS' BEHAVIORAL CHANGES HAPPENED AFTER EXPOSURE TO MIND-ALTERING CHEMICALS.



AND YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE I HAVE FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE WITH THAT!





PEOPLE ONLY
LOOK AT THESE SYSTEMS
AFTER SOMETHING
GOES WRONG. BY THEN,
IT'S TOO LATE.



YOU BEEN
DOING YOUR BACK
STRETCHES, BABS?
FULL STEALTH
REQUIRES A LOT OF
CONTORTION...

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME, NIGHTWING.
WHEN YOU WERE DOING
TRAPEZE TRICKS, I WAS
SNEAKING OUT OF
MY ROOM.



YOU REALLY THINK
THE CRIME DOCTOR'S
INVOLVED WITH STARTING A
FOMO OUTBREAK? DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE HIS STYLE.

A RARE BOOK
DEALER I KNOW DID
SOME CONSULTING ON THE
COMPOUND'S LIBRARY WING.
SAID THORNE WAS OBSESSED
WITH EPIDEMICS AND
OUTBREAKS.



AND HIS BROTHER'S RUPERT
THORNE, ONE OF THE FIRST
CRIME BOSSES BATMAN TOOK
DOWN. JUDGING BY THE MUSCLE
OUT HERE, HE PROBABLY STILL
HAS SOME UNDERWORLD
CONNECTIONS.



BLUEPRINTS SAY
THIS IS THE STUDY.
THERMAL SCANS SHOW
ONLY ONE HEAT
SIGNATURE IN THERE.
I'M GOING IN.



YOU GET
EYES ON THE
NOT-SO-GOOD
DOCTOR
YET?

YEP, AND
HE SNORES
BIG-TIME.

SNORRFFF



THORNE'S
SON SPOKE THE
TRUTH. HIS DAD WAS
INDEED WATCHING THE
FOMO OUTBREAK
CLOSELY.

WEIRD.
HE WAS
A SURGEON,
NOT AN
EPIDEMIOLOGIST,
RIGHT?



YEP. SO FAR,
I'M NOT SEEING
ANYTHING THAT
IMPLICATES
HIM.

SNRRFF



UH, DICK?
THIS WHOLE EPIDEMIC
THING MIGHT GO BACK











YES! COME,
YOU THIEVING
MONSTROSITIES,
AND TASTE MY
BLADE!

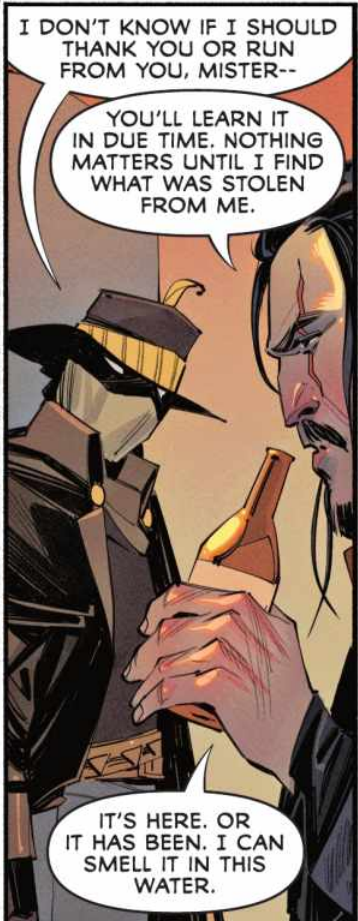
SKUTCH



ERRRRGGGGHH...



THEY...
THEY'RE ALL
DEAD.



I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD
THANK YOU OR RUN
FROM YOU, MISTER--

YOU'LL LEARN IT
IN DUE TIME. NOTHING
MATTERS UNTIL I FIND
WHAT WAS STOLEN
FROM ME.

IT'S HERE. OR
IT HAS BEEN. I CAN
SMELL IT IN THIS
WATER.



WHAT
PROPERTY IS
WORTH ALL THIS
DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION?



"A SHARD FROM THE
SKIES, WHICH ANOINTED
ME IN THE BLOOD OF
EVERYONE I KNEW.

"ONLY I
WAS STRONG
ENOUGH TO
SURVIVE ITS
IMPACT."







KEVIN CONROY

• 1955 - 2022 •

"As Batman, Kevin Conroy's voice spoke from a heart no stranger to pain. Through his empathy, Kevin's Dark Knight gave hope to anyone in need of a hero. He leaves behind a silent Gotham, but one infinitely blessed by his presence."

– Paul Dini

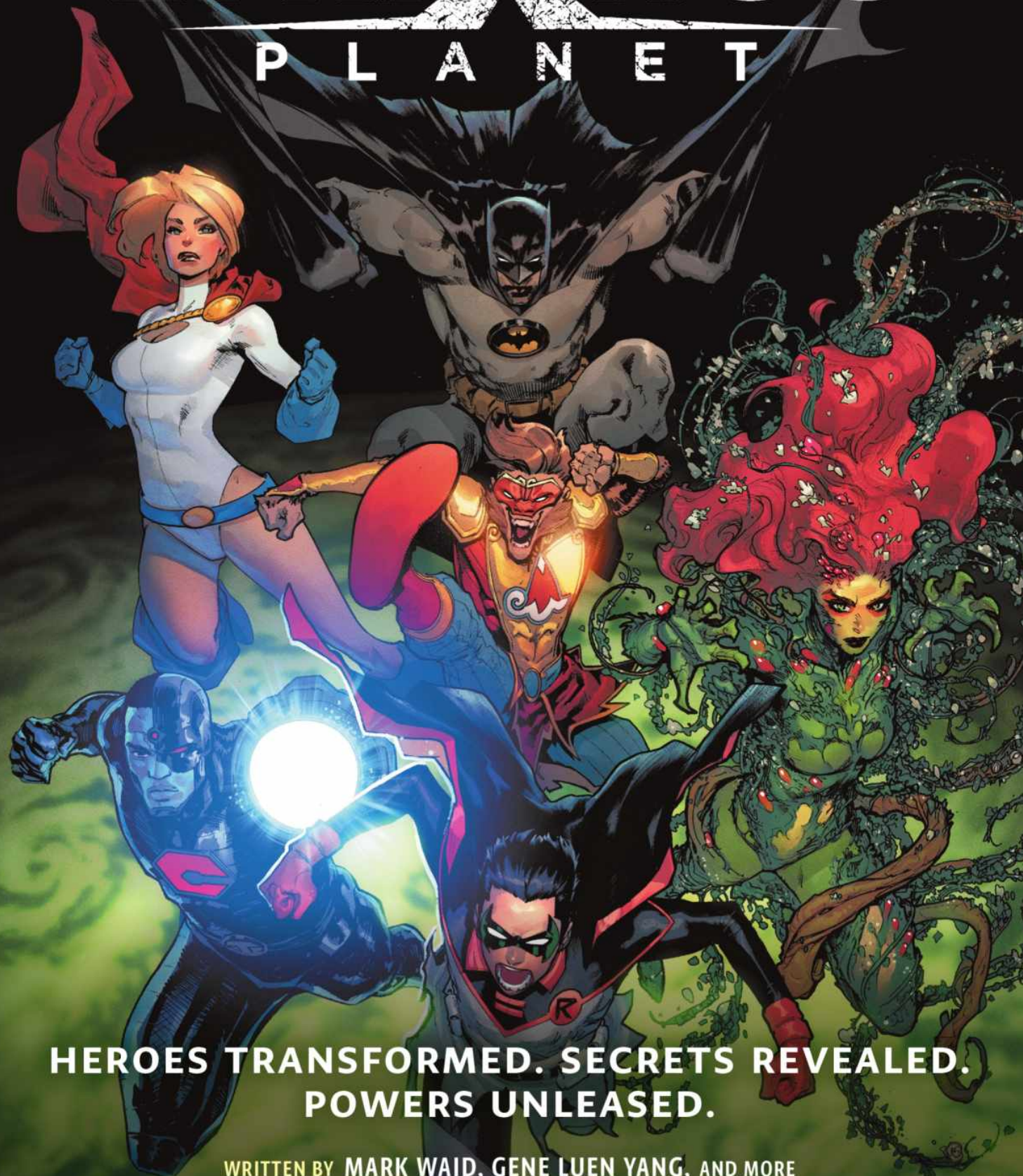
"His was a voice of uncommon power and warmth, and he made Batman a joy, not only for those of us lucky enough to work with him, but for the thousands of fans he met with and thrilled every year. It's an empty cave without you, my friend."

– Alan Burnett



DC NATION SPECIAL EDITION

DC UNIVERSE
LAZARUS
PLANET



**HEROES TRANSFORMED. SECRETS REVEALED.
POWERS UNLEASHED.**

WRITTEN BY MARK WAID, GENE LUEN YANG, AND MORE
ART BY RICCARDO FEDERICI, BILLY TAN, AND MORE



**"NEW HEROES WILL BE BORN
AND EXISTING HEROES' POWERS
WILL BE CHANGED FOREVER."**

In the climax of December's *Batman vs. Robin* #4, a Lazarus Volcano erupts, spewing dangerous and transformative chemicals into Earth's atmosphere.

"That much magic can't be contained—so when it erupts it spews out Lazarus Resin and creates a violent 'rainstorm' that covers the world," explains Mark Waid, the superstar writer and architect of the DC Universe: Lazarus Planet event.

Waid has been no stranger to the DC Universe this past year, penning the bestselling series *Batman/Superman: World's Finest* and *Batman vs. Robin*, which set the stage for this event, beginning in January's *Lazarus Planet: Alpha* #1.

"In *Batman/Superman: World's Finest*, we introduced the Devil Nezha, an ancient evil that could be contained only within the tomb on a remote island," Waid says. "Once our heroes sealed him inside, we sprung the surprise reveal—the tomb is on Lazarus Island. Then in *Batman vs. Robin*, we learn that Mother Soul, Damian's great-grandmother on his al Ghul side, has been searching for Nezha and used Damian to unleash him once more."



**"NEZHA IS A
TRICKSTER GOD WHO
OFTEN DANCES ON
THAT LINE BETWEEN
GOOD AND EVIL."**

Helping craft the two-month Lazarus Planet event alongside Waid will be *Monkey Prince* writer Gene Luen Yang. "Traditionally, Nezha is a trickster god who often dances on that line between good and evil," Yang says. "In *Batman/Superman: World's Finest*, Mark brought him into the DC Universe and specifically tied him into elements of the Batman mythos."



The Lazarus Volcano will make its rumblings known throughout the DC Universe in a series of one-shots helmed by all-star talent, including Francis Manapul, Phillip Kennedy Johnson, Leah Williams, Max Dunbar, Clayton Henry, Tim Seeley, and Marguerite Sauvage. Fan-favorite heroes throughout the DC Universe will be heavily invested in uncovering the secrets behind the Lazarus Resin.

"Power Girl is part of the team that tries to free Earth's magical artifacts from the Tower of Fate, where Nezha has imprisoned them," Waid explains. "Poison Ivy, on the other hand, is part of the team exploring one of Ra's al Ghul's mountain headquarters looking for clues to counteract the resin. Ra's was aware of her background as a brilliant biochemist who, like him, is eager to reestablish a working ecosystem before our planet succumbs to global war."

**"THE WRITERS AND ARTISTS ARE
EMBRACING THAT FREEDOM TO
DO SOME OF THE BEST WORK..."**



"The writers and artists are embracing that freedom to do some of the best work I've seen in a long time," Waid continues. "Everyone's been incredibly cooperative and willing to toss ideas back and forth to make their own stories even better."

The full scope of the story starts out in *Lazarus Planet: Alpha* and continues in the one-shot tie-ins *Lazarus Planet: Assault on Krypton*, *Lazarus Planet: We Were Once Gods*, *Lazarus Planet: Dark Fate*, *Lazarus Planet: Next Evolution*, and *Lazarus Planet: Legends Reborn*—all leading to the fateful finale in *Lazarus Planet: Omega* and the aftermath in *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods*.



After the events of Lazarus Planet, the gods of the Multiverse decide to take down the heroes they once called champions and the world they've sworn to protect.

The team of gods is led by Earth-0's wizard Shazam, who has been granted a vision from the Lazarus Resin the likes of which he has never seen before.

As if major changes to existing heroes and the introduction of all-new ones weren't enough, Lazarus Planet has a ton of surprises in store for even the most hardcore DC fan. "There's a fusion of Cyborg and Blue Beetle, a key role for Blue Devil, the mightiest bolt of Shazam lightning in history, Swamp Thing vs. Nezha, and a really, really, really ugly turn for Batman," Waid teases.

"Mark's premise for Lazarus Planet is so fun, the rest of us can't help but respond with all the creativity we can muster," Yang says. "Even as a fan, I can't wait to read what everyone's come up with."





LAZARUS RAINS DOWN!



LAZARUS PLANET: ASSAULT ON KRYPTON

Written by: Nicole Maines, C.S. Pacat, Frank Barbiere, and Leah Williams

Art by: Skylar Patridge, Scott Godlewski, Sami Basri, and Marguerite Sauvage

With the world in chaos and Lazarus raining from the skies, the Earth's protectors from Krypton are hit hard, and the heroes will never be the same again.



LAZARUS PLANET: NEXT EVOLUTION

Written by: Ram V, Brandon T. Snider, Chuck Brown, and Delilah S. Dawson

Art by: Lalit Kumar Sharma, Laura Braga, Alitha Martinez and Mark Morales, and Ro Stein and Ted Brandt

Amazing new powers have been gifted to the freedom fighters of the future. What perils will these villain-vanquishing virtuosos face alongside a brand-new legend, The Vigil?



LAZARUS PLANET: WE WERE ONCE GODS

Written by: Francis Manapul, Dan Watters, Phillip Kennedy Johnson, and Josie Campbell

Art by: Francis Manapul, Max Dunbar, Jack Herbert, and Caitlin Yarsky

The gods are in for some big changes as Lazarus rain beats down upon the Earth. Explore the Lazarus Planet's effect on DC Universe's extraordinary creatures and locations involving the Shazam Family and the Rock of Eternity.



LAZARUS PLANET: DARK FATE

Written by: Tim Seeley, Dennis Culver, A.L. Kaplan, and Alyssa Wong

Art by: Baldemar Rivas, Chris Burnham, A.L. Kaplan, and Haining

Who are the new villains created by the Lazarus rain and what heroes can stop them? A sinister threat will bring a new chapter to the Doom Patrol while a new danger lurks in the dark corners of the Spirit World for new character Xanthe?



LAZARUS PLANET: LEGENDS REBORN

Written by: Alex Segura, Greg Pak, Alex Paknadel, and Dennis Culver

Art by: Clayton Henry, Minkyu Jung, Christopher Mitten, and Jesús Merino

Heroes and villains long forgotten return! Nightwing and the new hero City Boy go on a quest to save Gotham from a surge of fantastical power that will affect the DC Universe forevermore!

LAZARUS PLANET: REVENGE OF THE GODS (COVER COMING SOON)

Written by: G. Willow Wilson

Art by: Cian Tormey & Caitlin Yarsky

The wizard Shazam has teamed up with the Quintessence to regain control of their champions. Shazam and Wonder Woman must work together and defeat the gods as they risk losing their powers for good.

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DC UNIVERSE LAZARUS PLANET CHECKLIST

JANUARY

- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Alpha* #1
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Assault on Krypton* #1
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: We Were Once Gods* #1
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Legends Reborn* #1
- ☐ *Monkey Prince* #10

FEBRUARY

- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Next Evolution* #1
- ☐ *Monkey Prince* #11
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Dark Fate* #1
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Omega* #1
- ☐ *Batman vs. Robin* #5

MARCH

- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #1
- ☐ *Wonder Woman* #797
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #2

APRIL

- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #3
- ☐ *Wonder Woman* #798
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #4



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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

